

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/322,029, filed May 28, 1999 ("the '029 Application"). Claims 1-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 25-45, which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in the '029 Application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, have been added (one or two minor informalities in those claims being corrected herein). Claims 25, 32, and 39 are independent.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application.

CLAIM TO PRIORITY

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Applications Nos. 10-151183 and 11-137080, filed June 1, 1998, and May 18, 1999, respectively, and respectfully requests acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copy of the priority documents, which were filed on August 20, 1999, in the '029 Application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

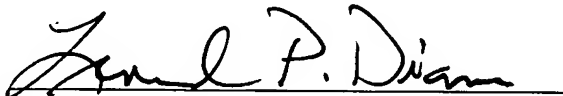
The information listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in the '029 application. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office file of that application for copies those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.) Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed

information has been considered, by initialing the appropriate portions of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and returning a copy of the initialled form to Applicants.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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